



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

11 JANUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Three Sri Lankan Nationals Charged with Aiding 2019 Easter Bombings

(U) Three Sri Lankan nationals were charged Friday in federal court in Los Angeles with supporting an Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) cell that killed hundreds of people in a string of coordinated suicide bombings that shook Sri Lanka in 2019. Mohamed Naufar, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Riskan, and Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Moahmed are accused of conspiring to provide material support to ISIS. Naufar and Milhan are also charged with aiding and abetting the receipt of military training from ISIS. All three remain in custody in Sri Lanka, US authorities said.

(U) SOURCE: 10 January 2021, [LA Times](#)

(U) Merced – Six Inmates Escape from Merced County Jail

(U) A manhunt is underway for six inmates who escaped from the Merced County Downtown Jail, according to a press release from the Merced County Sheriff's Office issued Sunday. The inmates, ages 19 to 22, were able to make it to the roof of the jail and used a "homemade rope to scale down the side of the jail," the release said. Jail staff discovered the men were missing from their cell just before midnight Sunday, according to the release. All of the inmates are considered armed and dangerous.

(U) SOURCE: 10 January 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – At Least 25 People Under Investigation in Connection with Capitol Riot

(U) Washington – At least 25 people are under investigation for terrorism related to the 6 January siege at the Capitol, according to a Defense official and a member of Congress. Representative Jason Crow, a Democrat of Colorado and a former Army Ranger, said he spoke with Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy on Sunday and was told that "at least 25 domestic terrorism cases have been opened as a result of the assault on the Capitol." A Defense official who was informed about the call initially confirmed that the cases involved troops but later corrected that statement. The official said some troops, active and reserve duty, may have been involved in the riot and the military will investigate them as necessary.

SOURCE: 10 January 2021, [USA Today](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US to Declare Houthis a Terrorist Group

(U) Washington – Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the US will designate Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels as a foreign terrorist organization, a move aid groups have warned could interfere with attempts to deal with what many consider to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The designation will take effect on 19 January, the day before President-elect Joe Biden takes office, Pompeo said in a statement late Sunday. He said he also intends to designate three of the group's leaders Abdul Malik al-Houthi, Abd al-Khaliq Badr al-Din al-Houthi, and Abdullah Yahya al Hakim as specially designated global terrorists.

SOURCE: 11 January 2021, [NBC News](#)

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(U) Illinois – Gunman Kills 3, Wounds 5 in Shooting Spree

(U) Chicago – A gunman went on a shooting spree that stretched from the South Side of Chicago to Evanston Saturday afternoon that resulted in at least three people fatally shot and five others critically wounded before police killed the man during a shootout. Police identified the gunman as Jason Nightengale, 32, of Chicago, and did not know the motive behind the spree. The spree of terror came to an end in Evanston when police responded to a call of a man with a gun at 5:38 p.m. inside a CVS store. Shots were fired inside the store, Evanston Police Chief Demitrous Cook said. Officers then chased Nightengale as he ran into the IHOP restaurant across the street, where he took a woman hostage. SOURCE: 9 January 2021, [Chicago Sun Times](#)

(U) Tennessee – FBI Arrests Nashville Zip-Tie Suspect from Assault on US Capitol

(U) Nashville – A self-described "hidden patriot" from Nashville, outed on social media as a rioter who invaded the US Senate chambers last Wednesday with a weapon and zip-tie handcuffs, was arrested Sunday on federal charge. FBI agents took Eric Gavelek Munchel, age 30, into custody on a federal arrest warrant charging him with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, and one count of violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds. SOURCE: 11 January 2021, [News Channel 5](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – Bomb Kills 3 in Kabul Amid Peace Talks

(U) Kabul – A roadside bomb exploded in Afghanistan's capital Sunday, killing at least three people in a vehicle. It was the latest attack to take place as government negotiators in Qatar resume peace talks with the Taliban. Tariq Arian, spokesman for the interior minister, said a spokesman for the ministry's public protection forces was one of the three killed in the attack. One other person was wounded he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility. ISIS has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks in the capital in recent months, including on educational institutions that killed 50 people, most of them students. ISIS has claimed responsibility for rocket attacks in December 2020 targeting the major US base in Afghanistan. SOURCE: 10 January 2021, [ABC](#)

(U) Cameroon – Boko Haram Kills 22 in Attack

(U) Officials said Saturday that at least 22 people, including four soldiers, were killed in two Friday morning attacks, one by Boko Haram fighters on its northern border with Nigeria and the other by separatists fighting to create an independent English-speaking state in the country's western regions. Officials warn of a new wave of violence and killing they say is being prepared by the separatists and Boko Haram terrorists. Midjiyawa Bakari, governor of Cameroon's Far North region, says there was general confusion in the town of Mozogo when militiamen warned civilians about Boko Haram suicide bombers from neighboring Nigeria in their midst. SOURCE: 11 January 2021, [Voice of America](#)

(U) Pakistan – Pakistan Sentences Senior LeT Official to Five Years for Terrorism Financing

(U) Lahore – A Pakistan court on Friday sentenced Zaki ur Rehman Lakhvi, a senior official of militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), to five years in jail for terrorism financing. Lakhvi and the group are accused by India and the US of being behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks, though the charges or sentence are not related to any specific incident. He was sentenced to five-years concurrently on three counts, with a fine

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of 100,000 rupees on each count, according to an order from the court. India has long called on Pakistan to try Lakhvi for the Mumbai attack, in which more than 160 people were killed, but Islamabad has said that Delhi has not given it concrete evidence that it can use in a court to try the LeT leader, which it had initially arrested in 2008 but was later released on bail.

SOURCE: 8 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Syria – Monitor Reports Strong Return of ISIS to Syria’s Desert Badia

(U) Badia – The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights revealed that ISIS has made a “strong comeback” to the Syrian desert Badia, saying it has seized control of positions in the Hama region. Over 30 regime fighters, allied militants and ISIS fighters have been killed. It said that Russian warplanes continue to fly over the Badia, carrying intense strikes against ISIS positions in the Hama countryside. The war monitor said ISIS carried out a strong offensive against positions held by the regime and allied militants, making advances in the Al-Shakusiyah and al-Rahjan areas.

SOURCE: 11 January 2021, [Asharq Al Awsat](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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